Inside this issue:

- **Will 2026 Be a Good Year? It Depends.**
- **Shirley's Minnesota Childcare Fraud Allegations Go Viral**
- **U.S. Leaving WHO on January 20 — HOORAY! NEXT: Leave Paris Accord!**
- **Conservative Rising in Honduras**
- **Epstein File Release Sparks Angst, Political Divide**
- **Kremlin Alleges Drone Attack on Putin's Residence Amid U.S.—Ukraine Talks**
- **Thoughts on New Year's Eve**
- **NYMHM: News You May Have Missed**

Will 2026 Be a Good Year? It Depends.

When revelers gather to celebrate the turn of the year, it is customary to wish each other a "Happy New Year." Welcoming in the year 2026 is no different. But once the celebrations are over, and the new year begins in earnest, it is a good time to ask what 2026 will actually be like, and what might be done to make it better.

Economically, 2026 will be a very good year — if the financial forecasters at the mammoth Goldman Sachs banking institution are on the money. On December 19, Sachs posted an article headlined "The Global Economy Is Forecast to Post 'Sturdy' Growth of 2.8% in 2026," which said, regarding its forecasting for the United States, "It is most optimistic (relative to consensus) about the US because of tax cuts, easier financial conditions, and reduced drag from tariffs."

Several days later, on December 23, the federal Bureau of Economic Analysis announced that, based on its initial estimate that had been delayed because of the government shutdown, the Gross Domestic Product had grown at an "annual rate of 4.3 percent in the third quarter of 2025." This fast-paced growth in the GDP, the strongest in two years, did not go unnoticed by the media. CBS News, for one, referred to the growth as "blistering" in a headline.

Of course, not everyone agrees that the economy is heading up, up, and away. One forecaster who's warning about economic storm clouds ahead is Peter Schiff, who accurately predicted the Great Recission of 2008 and earned the nickname "Dr. Doom" for his efforts. In a December 6 Truth Social post, President Trump called Schiff "a Trump hating loser who has already proven to be wrong" and a "jerk" after Schiff spoke negatively about the direction of the economy on *Fox and Friends Weekend*. "Already proven to be wrong"? In his post, Trump observed that Schiff "thinks prices are going up when, in fact," according to Trump at least, "they are coming substantially down." Regardless, here at *TNA,* we believe it is worth looking at *why* Schiff is saying what he is saying, before dismissing his gloomy forecasting out of hand. For this reason, we have interviewed him on video ("Peter Schiff: Don't Believe the Happy Talk on the Economy") and are publishing an abridged transcript of the interview in the February 2026 issue of our print magazine.

One reason why Schiff is not bullish on the economy is the fact that government spending and debt continue to skyrocket — and so do federal taxes, according to Schiff. Of course, the latter point may sound like lunacy if one

Contributors: Gary Benoit • Steve Bonta • Paul Dragu • Christian Gomez

William F. Jasper • John T. Larabell • Alex Newman • Peter Rykowski • Rebecca Terrell • Joe Wolverton II, J.D.

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looks only at direct taxation such as the income tax, which has been cut. But Schiff points out that the real level of taxation is actually how much the government spends, and the piper must be paid one way or another.

One way of paying the government piper is to "pay" for the trillion-dollar deficits by creating new money out of thin air through the Federal Reserve. This expansion of the money supply, which *is* inflation, causes prices to rise by diminishing the purchasing power of the dollars already in circulation. Thus, in a very real sense, inflation is a hidden form of taxation, even though it is not usually characterized that way. Price inflation may now be relatively low when measured by the Consumer Price Index, but there is no guarantee that it will stay that way — particularly considering the current trajectory of government spending, which constitutes a growing drag on the economy. It cannot be otherwise, since government does not create wealth but consumes it, and whatever government spends must be siphoned out of the productive private sector.

If the above assessment of the American economy and where it may be headed sounds overly negative, please ask yourself this question: How many Americans entering the workforce today will be able to earn enough money to buy a home and support a family? How many would be able to accomplish this on a single income, with a high-school education? Yet this was common for American families in the 1950s during the economic boom following World War II, and when the average family size was larger.

In addition to economic concerns, there are also troubling political concerns such as our increasingly (it seems) interventionist foreign policy that, in our view, increases the likelihood of America becoming embroiled in all-out war. Nor do we believe that this is what MAGA wanted when it sent an "America First" president back to the White House for a second term. On the other hand, some promises have been delivered such as stemming the massive tide of illegal immigration and easing regulations in the energy sector that have surely contributed to the drop in the price of gasoline.

Another positive is the fact that — despite America's becoming a very socialistic country over many years, during Democratic and Republican administrations alike

— the freedoms we inherited from the Founding Fathers are still largely intact. We can therefore still use our freedoms to save our freedoms. On July 4, 2026, we will celebrate the 250th anniversary of the Declaration of Independence, the birth certificate of our country, which became the greatest experiment in liberty the world has ever seen. America may have since retreated from its former greatness, but America can be made great again, just as Trump has said, though his efforts to improve things in the political realm should be judged by how closely he adheres to the Constitution, as should be the case with all politicians. But "We the People" must not just point fingers at politicians; we must also take a close look at ourselves in the mirror, since we are the ones who elect the politicians, and we have an awesome responsibility to become informed ourselves, to inform others, and to hold the feet of our politicians to the fire.

However, to improve the world in which we live, more than just political action is needed. We must always keep

in mind that freedom can only flourish when the people are virtuous.

For 2026, as for any year, we recommend resolving to do our duty to the best of our ability on behalf of all three of the great human loyalties — God, family, and country. If enough of us do this, it would, we believe, make a great positive difference for America as a whole. Making such a difference would be a wonderful way to celebrate the Declaration of Independence. But regardless of what 2026 or succeeding years bring, we must also remember that duty is ours while results belong to God. So long as we do our duty, we should be happy in spirit and at peace in our souls, no matter how despotic the times may become. Happy New Year everyone, and God bless America! — Gary Benoit

Shirley's Minnesota Childcare Fraud Allegations Go Viral

Independent journalist Nick Shirley has posted a series of viral videos exposing potential fraud in Minnesota's taxpayer-funded Child Care Assistance Program (CCAP). Have tens of millions of dollars been paid to defunct childcare centers?

He takes viewers along on his visits to multiple licensed daycare facilities in Minneapolis that he found locked during business hours, showing no signs of children present. Some buildings have blacked-out windows.

The daycare centers are Somali-owned. According to public payment records, they have collectively received millions of dollars annually. Additionally, some of them have accumulated extensive compliance violations in state licensing records, such as missing attendance documentation and conditions out of compliance with safety codes.

Shirley teamed with a local investigator (identified as "David"), who says he has monitored the locations for years and consistently observed little or no activity. Together they identified more than $110 million in questionable payments tied to the daycare centers.

Their allegations emerge at a volatile time for the state. Federal prosecutors have already described "industrial scale" fraud across Minnesota's social services system, with total suspected losses potentially exceeding $1 billion. Much of the largess is connected to programs serving low-income families. CCAP combines federal and state funds to subsidize childcare for working families, so the agency has been a focus of federal investigations. The Department of Labor has announced new interagency "strike teams" to investigate welfare fraud and illegal overseas transfers of funds.

Meanwhile, political backlash is harsh. Minnesota Republican U.S. Representative Tom Emmer has demanded answers from Democratic Governor Tim Walz.

"The governor has worked for years to crack down on fraud and ask the state legislature for more authority to take aggressive action," a spokesman for the governor told Fox News. "He has strengthened oversight — including launching investigations into these specific facilities, one of which was already closed."

The governor also claims to have hired an independent audit of high-risk programs in the state and to have hired a new statewide program "integrity director." Seems a logical conclusion for a collectivist to add more government to the problem. Walz didn't mention

anything about phasing out these wasteful welfare programs that defraud taxpayers even when they're working as allegedly intended: to help impoverished families. Far from helping the poor, socialistic distribution of wealth schemes oppress them. What little money actually filters down to those in need makes them dependent on the aid, stifles creativity and initiative, and punishes work, savings, and marriage. But most of the money ends up in private bank accounts of those who perpetuate the racket.

Meanwhile, Department of Justice watchdog Julie Kelly points out that national media "ran cover for Walz on this issue last year during his campaign for vice president." She tells of the widespread Minnesota fraud investigation launched by Attorney General Merrick Garland during the Biden years, though "news media ignored the matter after Kamala Harris named Walz as her running mate." Now that Walz is up for reelection as governor this year, major media is covering for him again. — Rebecca Terrell

U.S. Leaving WHO on January 20 — HOORAY! NEXT: Leave Paris Accord!

January 2026 marks the beginning of the 250th year of our United States of America as a nation. There will be much to celebrate in this coming year, notably, our Declaration of Independence on July 4. However, we are not waiting until July to celebrate. In a little more than three weeks, on January 20, 2026, the United States will exit the UN's World Health Organization (WHO). Yes, although you probably have not seen anything about this in the controlled "news," this will be an important historic event, hopefully portending many similar actions to follow. On January 20, 2025, days after his second-term inauguration, President Donald Trump issued an executive order titled "Withdrawing the United States from the World Health Organization." The United States has been a member of WHO (and its principle funder) since the organization was founded in 1948. President Harry Truman signed the Congressional Joint Resolution authorizing U.S. membership and outlining the withdrawal process.

President Trump attempted to withdraw from WHO in July of 2020, but missed the one-year notification requirement before his term was up. The Biden administration retracted the Trump withdrawal notification and reaffirmed U.S. support for the organization. However, it looks like this time the U.S.-WHO severance will go through. That doesn't mean there will be no lawfare campaign to stop this victory. Expect lawsuits, grandstanding politicians, and media talking heads to insist that the withdrawal is illegal or at least legally dubious. As we noted in *The New American* this past July ("Global Power Grab: 80 Years of Infamy," the global Covid lockdown was a terrifying example of the communist-style totalitarianism that WHO, the UN, the Chinese Communist Party, and their globalist coconspirators at the World Economic Forum have in mind for all of humanity.

What a way to celebrate the new year by reclaiming our independence from this global monstrosity. Thank you, President Trump! — William F. Jasper

Conservative Rising in Honduras

Honduras has become the latest Latin American country to move to the right, with the confirmation of Nasry "Tito" Asfura as president after a monthlong tabulation of votes. Asfura, the son of Palestinian Christian immigrants, former mayor of Tegucigalpa, and a successful construction magnate, ran for the conservative National Party on a free-market and pro-investment platform, and was heartily endorsed by the Trump administration. Asfura succeeds leftist Xiomara Castro, the first left-wing president ever to complete a term in office in Honduras. While known for its poverty and high crime, Honduras is one of the world's most politically conservative countries, and until recently was

one of the few remaining states that officially recognized Taiwan instead of Communist China. However, Castro promised as a candidate to diplomatically recognize China, and fulfilled that promise in 2023 — an act president-elect Asfura is vowing to undo. Also on the agenda is breaking ties with Venezuela's Maduro, another Marxist dictator with whom his predecessor had been chummy. Interestingly, the electoral outcome was a razor-sharp contest between Asfura and another somewhat conservative candidate, Salvador Nasralla, while the left-wing candidate trailed far behind in the three-way contest.

The Honduran election results follow closely after the Chilean election, and are yet another indicator of the positive direction in most of Latin America away from Marxism and toward conservative, pro-freedom government. As of the end of 2025, Honduras joins El Salvador, Panama, Ecuador, Peru, Bolivia, Chile, Paraguay, and Argentina in the growing club of pro-freedom Latin American countries, with Colombia likely to accede next year. The three major Marxist holdouts — Mexico, Venezuela, and Brazil — are of course still very much in Camp Radical Left, along with Guatemala, Cuba, and Nicaragua. But the future for Latin America looks very bright, and it's encouraging to see Honduras — a country with which this author has considerable personal acquaintance — get in on the action. — Steve Bonta

Epstein File Release Sparks Angst, Political Divide

Former State Department official Mike Benz has argued that the Jeffrey Epstein files suggest that the late financier and convicted sex offender had unusual access to sensitive aviation and financial networks. These included links to Southern Air Transport, an airline connected to the Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) during the Iran-Contra era.

According to Benz:

> Jeffrey Epstein negotiated the [expletive] contract to move the CIA's proprietary airliner, Southern Air Transport, which was busted running drugs and guns during Iran-Contra! He personally was the authorized signatory on the deal with Southern Air Transport to move it to a military base in Columbus, Ohio, to service The Limited [a large national retailer, owned by a former client of Epstein]. Hey, any of you guys got any bright ideas about how you would go about in 1994, convincing the Central Intelligence Agency to move its proprietary CIA airline used for covert operations, based in Miami, to [expletive] up and move its entire operation to [expletive] Columbus, Ohio, just to service your personal company instead of the CIA? What, do you think he cold-called the CIA? You think he just schmoozed the CIA? Or is it because he was handling Adnan Khashoggi's money during Iran-Contra, that purchased the guns that Southern Air Transport, a decade earlier, was moving?

Wall Street Apes adds some commentary on Twitter:

> Adnan Khashoggi is the notorious Saudi Arabian billionaire arms dealer and international middleman. He was one of the world's most prominent arms brokers in the 1970s and 1980s, facilitating massive deals between Western defense contractors (like Lockheed and Northrop) and the Saudi government, earning billions in commissions.

How did Epstein obtain such authority? Was he merely a wealthy criminal operating independently, or was he a protected operator within the Deep State, which enabled and insulated him, and whose operators continue to resist public accountability?

Conservative pundits like Benz say that mainstream media is helping with the coverup, as outlets seem to have quieted down about such accountability now that celebrities and prominent Democrats — most notably former President Bill Clinton — are damnably linked to Epstein. Clinton has long acknowledged his friendship with Epstein but denies any knowledge of or involvement in the sex offender's crimes. — Rebecca Terrell

Kremlin Alleges Drone Attack on Putin's Residence Amid U.S.—Ukraine Talks

Earlier this week, the Kremlin claimed that Ukraine carried out a large-scale drone attack on one of Russian President Vladimir Putin's official residences. The allegation was made during a recent phone call between Putin and President Donald Trump that was afterwards publicized via an official Russian government statement on the official Kremlin website. However, evidence of the claim is lacking and Ukrainian officials have categorically denied that it carried out any such attack.

According to an official Kremlin statement released by presidential aide Yury Ushakov, posted on the Kremlin's official website, Putin told Trump that Ukraine launched a "terrorist attack" involving long-range unmanned aerial vehicles (UAVs) against one of Putin's state residences, located in Russia's Novgorod region. Russian officials claimed that all attacking UAVs were successfully intercepted and destroyed and that there were no casualties or damage. The state residence in question is not Putin's primary home, but rather one primarily used as a retreat.

Despite the seriousness of the allegation, the Kremlin has refused to provide any evidence of the alleged attack, as of the time of writing this story. Russians have not provided or released any photographs, videos, radar data, debris, or other independently verified confirmation of the alleged incident. Nor did the Kremlin statement specify when the purported attack occurred.

Ukraine immediately denied the accusation. President Volodymyr Zelensky dismissed it as nothing more than "typical Russian lies." Zelensky accused the Kremlin of attempting to derail diplomatic progress following his recent meeting with Trump at Mar-a-Lago. Ukrainian Foreign Minister Andrii Sybiha said the reason that Russia has not produced any evidence is "because there's none."

"Another round of lies from the Russian Federation," Zelensky told reporters on WhatsApp, adding that Moscow benefits by attempting to drive a wedge between Ukraine and its allies whenever diplomatic progress looks promising.

Trump later told reporters that he was angered by the account, if true, but also acknowledged that it was "possible" the incident did not occur at all — an important caveat omitted from various misleading left-leaning media headlines trying to make it sound as though Trump believed Putin's allegation as established fact. Until further evidence is presented and independently verified, it remains to be seen whether Moscow or Kiev is telling the truth.

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What remains striking is the complete absence of corroboration. During past Ukrainian UAV strikes inside Russia, local Russian residents would upload videos of explosions or air-defense activity to social media. As of the writing of this article, no such footage has emerged. In fact, residents near Valdai, close to where the alleged incident occurred, told independent Russian media they heard no explosions on the day in question.

According to the Kremlin's account of what happened, Putin warned that Russia would revise its negotiating posture and that such "terrorist acts" would not go unanswered. The statement also claimed that Trump was "shocked" and "outraged" by the news, making it sound like Trump agreed with Putin.

But can Moscow be trusted when making such claims? Soviet and Russian history offer little reason to accept the Kremlin's narrative. Both the Kremlin and Russia's defense ministry have repeatedly issued false or, at best, exaggerated statements throughout the war. For example, Moscow has repeatedly insisted it has never targeted civilians, despite abundant evidence of Russian missile and drone strikes on residential areas, hospitals, and government buildings in Ukraine. Either Moscow is lying or their weapons and guidance systems are widely unreliable. Perhaps, a little bit of both is true.

Nevertheless, Soviet and Russian military deception in wartime is nothing new. During the Cold War, the KGB and Soviet authorities routinely staged or distorted events to justify repression, military action, or diplomatic pressure. During the 2014 annexation of Crimea, Putin claimed that unmarked Russian troops, who were equipped with professional military gear and weapons, and occupying the peninsula were nothing more than "local self-defense forces." And prior to the 2022 invasion, Moscow accused Ukraine of committing "genocide" in the Donbas — charges that were afterwards largely contradicted by various international observers. In typical Marxist and Leninist fashion, Putin and other Kremlin officials have repeatedly spoken of the need to "de-Nazify" the "Kyiv regime." While Zelensky is certainly no saint, neither is he the modern manifestation of Adolf Hitler as some hardliners in Russia have portrayed him to be.

Of course, none of this proves the alleged drone attack did not occur. Ukraine has demonstrated a keen and persistent ability to strike deep inside the Russia Federation and has carried out daring operations against key high-profile Russian military and infrastructure targets, such as on Russia's fleet of strategic nuclear bombers. From that standpoint alone, one of Putin's state residences would be a tempting target.

However, the timing of the alleged attack, makes little strategic sense for Kyiv. Launching such a bold attack immediately following high-level talks with President Trump at Mar-a-Lago, especially when Zelensky is desperately seeking U.S. support for a negotiated settlement that is favorable to Kyiv, risks alienating his most important international ally. It's simply not logical, at least not at present. This, combined with the lack of eyewitness accounts or any physical evidence, such as the remains of one of the "intercepted" Ukrainian UAVs, casts doubt on Moscow's version of events.

Whenever the Kremlin makes such serious accusations, especially without providing any immediate evidence to corroborate its claim, one ought always to be cognizant of the intentions and incentives of a communist-rooted regime skilled in the art of military deception and subversion.

By accusing Ukraine of escalation, the Kremlin may hope to justify future "retaliatory" strikes or to further harden its negotiating stance while shifting the blame to Zelensky and Kyiv. In fact, Russian Foreign Affairs Minister Sergey Lavrov has already stated that "retaliatory targets" have been selected, which suggests that the Kremlin is already preparing to execute escalatory attacks.

Another, and perhaps more plausible explanation, may be mere political manipulation. By accusing the Zelensky government of a major escalation, Putin may be attempting to influence Trump directly. Well aware of Trump's transactional approach and sensitivity to perceived personal slights (e.g., Trump's feud with no-nonsense constitutionalist Representatives Marjorie Taylor Green and Thomas Massie), Moscow could be seeking to reframe Zelensky and his government as reckless and unreliable amidst a critical juncture in negotiations with Washington.

At present, the Kremlin's allegation rests entirely on its own word. And thus far, Ukraine's denial remains uncontradicted. Even President Trump conceded the possibility that the attack never occurred.

Until verifiable proof is brought forward, the Kremlin's claim should be treated with a grain of Soviet salt, especially given Moscow's own long history of disseminating propaganda and disinformation. When information warfare can be as decisive as military force, one would do well to recall the old Russian maxim that President Ronald Reagan was so fond of repeating in his meetings with Soviet Premier Mikhail Gorbachev: "trust, but verify." And whether dealing with the heirs of Soviet communism or globalist frontmen for centralized European integration and further NATO expansion, the White House ought to verify twice. — Christian Gomez

Thoughts on New Year's Eve

New Year's Eve is a time of both retrospection and anticipation, when many stop to thank God for the blessings and mercies He has bestowed upon them during the past year and to beg Him for more of the same in the future. However, as our current modern world largely denies His existence or at best ignores Him, it's a good time to revisit the five proofs of God's existence offered by Saint Thomas Aquinas in the *Summa Theologica*.

His exposition in Part I, Question 2, Article 3, argues that even without the light of faith, mankind can demonstrate that God exists. The proofs are evident from observations in the natural world. The first is the argument of "motion," that everything in motion must be put in motion by something else. However, something had to have started all this motion; there must be a "First Mover," unmoved by anything else. Saint Thomas identifies this as God.

His second proof is much like the first, and is labeled "efficient cause." Every effect has a cause, but an infinite chain of causes does not explain existence. The "first cause," upon which everything else depends, is God.

Saint Thomas then explains the argument of "contingency," that the things of this world are contingent on other things; they come into being and pass away. However, if everything is contingent on something else, nothing could exist. The "necessary being" that exists on its own is God.

The fourth argument is based on "degrees of perfection." We all recognize various measures or amounts of goodness, truth, beauty, etc. These degrees, says the saint, imply a maximum or standard of perfection by which everything is measured. This ultimate perfection is God.

The last argument springs from teleology, also referred to as "final cause" or the design of natural phenomena. Saint Thomas observes that non-rational things act in ways that imply they are guided by an intelligent being: the seasons follow each other in an orderly fashion, the sun rises in the east and sets in the west, the constellations remain organized. This guiding intelligence is God.

Keep in mind that these arguments are philosophical, not theological. They are based on rational observation rather than revealed doctrine. Though it is not enough to

acknowledge that God exists, for we are bound to worship Him and Him alone, it is a start. Looking for a resolution for the new year? You might consider studying further this most influential work of Western literature. — Rebecca Terrell

NYMHM: News You May Have Missed

Report: Vast Majority of Somalis in Minnesota Collect Some Form of Welfare

Georgia County Cops to Illegally Counting 315,000 Early Ballots in 2020

Soviet Europe? Trump BANS Euro Officials From U.S. in Free-speech War

DHS: More Than 17K Illegal-alien Criminals Arrested Under Laken Riley Act; 1,000-plus in 14 Days

Gender Ideology Is a Cult Religion Seeking to Destroy Children, Viral Activist Explains

Threats to Religious Liberty, Foreign & Domestic: Sam Brownback

America May Bomb Iran Again: Trump

Do the White Thing: Trump's EEOC Tackling Anti-white Job Discrimination

Putting Plants Before People Prompted Palisades Fire, Plaintiffs and Papers Postulate

SBA Pauses Subsidies to Minnesota Because of Massive Somali Fraud

Campus Wars: Inside the Ideological Battle Shaping America's Universities

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